

Jan. 13, 1997

Dick Daniel
CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Manager
Fax # 916/654-9780

Dear Mr. Daniel,

The Water/Bay Committee of the Environmental Forum of Marin recently received copies of the Preliminary Working Draft CALFED Bay-Delta Program Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan and appreciates the opportunity to give our comments. We are very concerned about water issues and choices that will be made regarding the Bay/Delta ecosystem and support all plans in this draft that will guarantee permanent restoration of the ecosystem. The plans need to include sufficient fresh water flows that will allow for a self sustaining ecosystem with healthy habitats for dependent species.

The draft includes many objectives and targets which will offer significant improvements for the functions and processes of the ecosystem and the native wildlife dependent on it. Our concerns include both new points not presented in the draft and points already stated in the draft which we recommend strengthening and emphasizing.

- A long term monitoring plan to be used once goals are considered met to assure that the ecosystem will be protected and remain healthy and able to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. This is very important because of the numerous impacts and destruction the ecosystem has undergone for such a long period .

- Making the restoration of the ecosystem the priority program of CALFED's vision since its success will have important impacts and benefits for all other programs. Focusing on a healthy ecosystem will greatly benefit the other uses of the watershed ecosystem .

- Monitoring the rate of introduced species and populations as an ecological indicator of the success of an objective and target. Invasive species competing with our native species is a great concern especially since it has been stated that one new species becomes established in the Estuary every 15 weeks. (from 'The Invaded Estuary' - Abstract by Andrew Cohen)

- All efforts to avoid impacts on species, habitats and ecological functions should be made since they cannot be replaced. The loss of one habitat cannot be replaced by improvements to another habitat.

- The goals of the final Restoration Program should not be compromised to meet the goals of the not yet chosen final alternative. The goals mentioned in the draft can improve the

Bay /Delta ecosystem and should not be weakened to meet the goals of an alternative plan that would not have the protections needed to restore the ecosystem.

- All efforts be made to protect species which are endangered, threatened, and species of concern and targets should not be changed if these species would be adversely effected. We are concerned about alternatives with storage and conveyance alternatives which may alter a target. (Page 4)

- Solutions should provide the least disturbances to the natural ecosystem processes. The Introduction to Restoration Targets states in Appendix A that the Bay-Delta ecosystem does not now contain the amount or quality of habitat needed to support a diverse assemblage of valuable plant and animal species. With that in mind, solutions should provide the least disturbances to the natural ecosystem processes necessary . Natural ecosystem processes need protection considering how much in need of improvement the Bay/Delta ecosystem

We would like to receive future drafts of the targets report and the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Nancy Dempster
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